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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

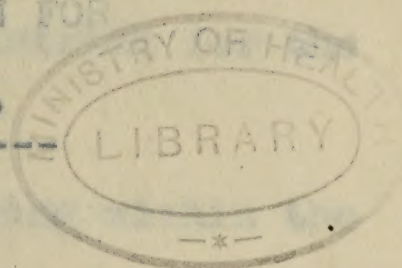
FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SHANKLIN

FOR THE YEAR 1925



various parts of the town lie at a lower level than this, for instance, the houses on the peninsula. The aspect is broken, and the surface is almost everywhere undulating so that drainage is only a feet, and there are places where surface water can stand. The soil is generally porous, derived from the Greensand, with here and there patches of heavier soil. The surface drainage is naturally in two channels; one down the river known as Shanklin River, which drains the water from the south side of the district and from the central portion of the town from the General Post Office southwards; from the north of the Post Office the level falls to the outfall known as Shell Bay, and into this also drains the water from the north of the district up to the top of Gallions Hill.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE URBAN DISTRICT OF SHANKLIN FOR
THE YEAR 1925.



GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to submit to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Shanklin for the year 1925.

As to Geographical position, Shanklin is situated at the South-east of the Isle of Wight, for the most part stands on the Cliff overlooking Sandown Bay, at an elevation varying from 150 feet to 400 feet above sea level, certain portions of the town lie at a lower level than this, for instance, the houses on the Esplanade. The aspect is South-east, & the surface is almost everywhere undulating so that drainage is easy & free, and there few places where surface water can stand. The soil is generally porous, derived from the Greensand, with here and there patches of a heavier soil. The surface drainage is naturally in two channels; one down the ravine known as Shanklin Chine, & it is drains the water from the South side of the District & from the central portion of the town from the General Post Office southwards; from the north of the Post Office the level falls to the outfall known as Small Hope, & into this also drains the water from the north of the District up to the top of Gallows Hill.

The drainage being so perfect & the soil also porous, the town can never be damp, the roads drying up again immediately after the heaviest rainfall.

Regarding the Vital Statistics of the District for the past year.

The numbers of Births registered as occurring within the District was Fifty (50) consisting of thirty (30) Males & twenty (20) Females. The Illegitimate Births were three (3), all Males, which is an illegitimate Birth rate of 60 per 1000 births registered. The Birthrate of the District was 11.8 per 1000 of population, the Birth rate of the country generally being 18.3 per 1000, so the District is 6.5 per 1000 below the general rate.

As to the Death rate for the past year, there were registered Fifty four (54) deaths, consisting of Thirty (30) Males & Twenty four (24) Females. This makes a Death-rate for the District of 12.7 per 1000 of population. The Death rate of the country is 12.2 per 1000.

The Population of the District has decreased by 4 during the past year owing to excess of deaths over births. If we take these figures at their face value, the population must be decreasing whereas, as everyone with an intimate knowledge of the District knows that this is not the case. In my opinion the explanation is that the population is one very largely composed of individuals of advancing years, it being recruited from elderly people who come here to spend the last decade or two of their

the drainage being as perfect as the soil also porous, the
can never be damp, the roads drying up again im-
mediately after the heaviest rainfall.
According to the Vital Statistics of the District for the
past year.
A number of births registered as occurring within the
District was 1117 (50) consisting of thirty (30) males
and 817 females. The illegitimate births were three
all males, which is an insignificant birth rate of
3.3 per 1000 births registered. The birth rate of the dis-
trict was 11.8 per 1000 of population, the birth rate of
the country generally being 18.5 per 1000, so the District
is 7.7 per 1000 below the general rate.
As to the death rate for the past year, there were regis-
tered 1157 (54) deaths, consisting of thirty (30)
males and 827 females. This makes a death
rate for the district of 12.7 per 1000 of population.
The death rate of the country is 18.3 per 1000.
The population of the District has decreased by 4 during
the past year owing to excess of deaths over births.
It is true these figures as their face value, the pop-
ulation went on increasing whereas, as everyone with an
interest in the population of the District knows that this is
not the case. In my opinion the explanation is that the
population is the very largely composed of individuals
of advancing years, is being recruited from elderly people
who come here to spend the last - decade or two of their

lives. When we come to look at the age incidence of the death rate it bears out this view.

The various deaths have occurred at the following ages.

Under 1 year there were 2 deaths.

Over 1 year and under 2 years - - - 0

" 2 years " " 5 " - - - 0

" 5 " " " 15 " - - - 2

" 15 " " " 45 " - - - 2

" 45 " " " 65 " - - 13

" 65 " - - - 35

Total 54

In a total number of deaths of 54 people there were 35 people over 65 years of age, & excluding 2 infants under 1 year there were only 4 deaths under 45 years.

The various deaths were due to the following causes

II deaths due to Diseases of the Heart

8 " " " Arteriosclerosis

5 " " " Cancer

3 " " " Cerebral Haemorrhage

3 " " " Bronchitis

2 " " " Pulmonary Tuberculosis

2 " " " Diabetes

2 " " " Pneumonia

2 " " " General Debility & premature Birth

2 " " " Senile Decay

1 " " " Acute Laryngitis

1 " " " Appendicitis

Diseases, one may say therefore that for these years 1921

1 death was due to Nephritis

1923 we had an unusual prevalence of Scarlet Fever & the

I " " " Rheumatic Fever

may be said of Diphtheria, except that the latter in-

I " " " Hernia

stead if coinciding exactly with the Scarlet Fever exten-

I " " " Gall Stones & Cholecystitis

led into the year 1924, that is to say the prevalence of

I " " " Meningitis

Scarlet Fever was of three years duration, while that of

I " " " Cerebral Embolism

Diphtheria was of four years duration.

1 " " " Suicide

The Isolation Hospital

3 Deaths were due to other defined diseases

54 Total situated in the Rural District, to the North

West of Shanklin, it has been under the government of a

As to the occurrence of Infectious Diseases within the

combined Board from the Councils of Shanklin & Sandown

District. There were notified 5 cases of Pulmonary

Tuberculosis during the past year, there were no other

Infectious Diseases notified, this is remarkable, it has

not occurred before during the past fifteen years at

least.

In the years preceeding 1921 we had in the District an

average of 2 cases per annum of Scarlet Fever (no one

year exceeding 5) & an average of 1. 20 cases of Diph-

theria (No one year exceeding 3 cases)

In 1921 however we had the notification of 8 cases of

Diphtheria & 22 cases of Scarlet Fever. In 1922 we had

16 cases of Diphtheria & 19 cases of Scarlet Fever

In 1923 there were 4 cases of Diphtheria & 17 of Scarlet

Fever

In 1924 we had 7 cases of Diphtheria but only 2 cases

of Scarlet Fever

In 1925 was an entire absence of either of these

diseases, one may say therefore that for these years 1921 - 1923 we had an unusual prevalence of Scarlet Fever & the same may be said of Diphtheria, except that the latter instead of coinciding exactly with the Scarlet Fever extended into the year 1924, that is to say the prevalence of Scarlet Fever was of three years duration, while that of Diphtheria was of four years duration.

The Isolation Hospital

This is situated in the Rural District, to the North - West of Shanklin, it has been under the government of a combined Board from the Councils of Shanklin & Sandown. This arrangement appears to be ceasing after September next, Sandown severing its connection with Shanklin in the matter. The Shanklin Council will therefore in the near future maintain the Isolation Hospital alone & will continue to send the infectious cases from the District to the Hospital. As I dealt at length in my last Annual Report with this Hospital I will now say nothing more.

General Hospitals

There are two Hospitals situated within your District viz: The Arthur Webster Memorial Hospital & the Scio Hospital For Children.

The former was built some twenty years ago, & was presented to Shanklin by the late Lord Alverstone. It is a Cottage Hospital of six beds, there being two wards with

three beds in each, one ward for men & one for women. There is a very good modern operating Theatre, & also a very well equipped X-Ray Plant, with developing room. Last year eighty-eight cases were admitted to this Hospital for treatment. The Hospital is not endowed, but has always been supported by voluntary contributions.

The Scio Hospital for Children was instituted over thirty years ago by the late Mrs Julia Scaramanga; the building was originally a converted house near the Railway Station. Some years ago Mrs Scaramanga purchased an excellent site on the top of Arthurs Hill, & then erected the present Hospital, which consists of two wards with four or five beds in each ward. During the past year about a hundred children were admitted for treatment; most of these were surgical cases who could not possibly have been treated in their own homes. The Hospital is partially endowed. It was found some four years ago, that the income from the endowment fund was inadequate for carrying on the Hospital, so it was decided to admit two patients into two private rooms, who would pay as in a Nursing Home. This has been a success, & the new source of income has enabled the Hospital to meet its expenses.

There is a District Maternity Nurse who is employed
by the Shanklin Nursing Association, which is supp-

used to do - and seem to have disinfection carried out after
the refuse has been in a dwelling

REFUSE

The refuse of the District is removed by carts & taken
to a "Tip" about 2 miles in the country, this has not
done entirely to my satisfaction. The "Tip" where the
refuse is deposited is a centre for rats to emigrate
from & this is bad in itself moreover paper & other re-
fuse is blown about the surrounding country which is
picturesque & much frequented by visitors & others
~~the Council~~ This method I am glad to say is to be
changed, the Council having made arrangements for the
establishment of a Destructor which will in my opinion
be a great improvement & will enable the Council to carry
on that disinfection of bedding & clothing when such is
necessary.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES & PUBLIC PLACES

Staff. This has undergone a change since my last Annual
Report was written. There is now a consulting Engineer
& the office of Surveyor & Inspector is held by one
Officer, this is quite satisfactory provided that this
Officer has adequate assistance. Every year there is
an increased amount of clerical work to be done, & every
year there is a considerable number of new houses being
built. During the summer months the population of this
District is certainly doubled - the Inspector needs

most of his time out of doors if the inspection of the District is to be adequately attended to. There is a very definite tendency at this season of the year to overcrowding, if the weather is fine, this is not of much importance but in a spell of wet weather the greatly increased numbers per house is detrimental & the sanitary arrangements then are often congested. All this needs the constant attendance of the Inspector & unless the staff is adequate, this extra work cannot be dealt with.

HOUSING AND COTTAGES

While there is need for more cottages in the District I cannot say that it exists in an acute form. I understand that twelve cottages are to be built by private enterprise & that the Council is going to erect 5 pairs of cottages.

There are in ^{the} Shanklin area about 1340 dwellinghouses but it is difficult to say how many of these are really bonafide workmens cottages, so many of the larger houses are rented by workmen & artisans & are used as boarding houses during the summer months. I do not know of any unoccupied houses in the District. Forty four (44) new houses have been erected including an Arcade in the High Street.

HOUSEHOLD CENSUS

GENERAL

(1) Estimated population	4240
(2) General death-rate	10.57
(3) death-rate from Tuberculosis - I Pulmonary tuberculosis	

(4) Infantile Mortality	40 per 1000 Births
(5) No. of Dwellinghouses	1371
(6) No. of workingclass houses	871
(7) No. of new workingclass houses erected 1928-29	"Other" Class.

2 UNFIT DWELLINGHOUSES

I Inspection

(1) Total No. of Dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)	{ 100
(2) No. of Dw. which were inspected & recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	{ 500
(3) No. of Dw. found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	{ None
(4) No. of Dw. (exclusive of those referred. to under the preceding sub-heading) found to be not in all respects fit for human habitation	{ None

II Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notice

(1) No. of defective Dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Action by Local Authority or their Officers	{ 40
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III Action under Statutory Powers

I Proceedings under sect.28 of the Housing & Town Planning Act of 1919

(1) No. of Dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring Repairs	{ It has not been found necessary to take action under Statutory Powers
(2) No. of Dw. which were rendered fit (a) by Owners (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	

(3) No. of No. in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	None
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II Proceedings under Public Health Acts

(1) No. of Dwghses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	None, all defects were made
(2) No. of No. in which defects were remedied (a) by Owners and (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	None, all defects were made by Owners when required

Proceedings under Sects. 17 & 18 - the Housing, Town Planning & Act 1919

(1) No. of Representations made with a view to making of Closing Orders	None
(2) No. of No. in respect of which Closing Orders were made	None
(3) No. of No. in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwghse having been rendered unfit	None
(4) No. of No. in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	None
(5) No. of No. demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	None

6. UNHEALTHY AREAS

Areas represented to the Local Authorities with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) II of Act of 1920

(1) Name of Area	No unhealthy areas requiring improvement schemes (a).
(2) Acreage	Part (b) of Act II of the Act of 1920
(3) No. of Working-class Houses in area	
(4) No. of Working-class persons to be displaced	

4 No. of houses not complying with the building byelaws erected with the consent of Local Authority under Sec. 25 of the Housing Town Planning Act 1919.

} None

5. No. of Staff engaged on Housing Work with the Duties of each Officer.

All new houses & drainage thereto are inspected by the Surveyor or Assistant Surveyor or

----- DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE -----

The natural contour of the land makes the drainage of the District for the most part easy, for the natural fall is generally very considerable. The main sewers are good, the subsidiary defective ones have mostly been dealt with. It is satisfactory to know that the out-fall of the main sewer has been carried further out to sea. The old outlet was at times a source of annoyance & distinctly insanitary. This condition will not exist next summer, the work having been completed, before the bathing season of 1924.

SEWER ACCOMMODATION -----

The water-closet system is practically universal in the District; but I would like to be able to say that all closets are provided with flushing tanks. Some of them are not, although there is an abundance of water, a certain amount of neglect in this respect is inevitable, & I should be glad to see flushing tanks enforced in all cases.

WATER SUPPLY

This is derived from the source, & historically the oldest supply is from adits driven into Shanklin Town; next in order is the supply from Fressell, some three or four miles away, & lastly the supply from Chillington, some seven miles distant. All sources are from the Greensand formation & are deep springs & of highest purity. The last acquired supply from Chillington is pumped into a high level reservoir at Chillington & so falls by gravitation into the reservoir at Shanklin.

SCHOOLS

The Board Schools are situated just outside your District where the District merges with the Sanitary Urban District & they are therefore under the supervision of the Sanitary Authority. The Voluntary Schools are on the West side of the town, they are well built, are well ventilated & the drainage & sanitation are good; they have the Shanklin water supply. It has not been necessary to visit the schools during the past year, & the health of the children has been quite satisfactory.

MILK SUPPLY

The Cowsheds, Dairies, & milkshops are for the most part well kept, & the milk supply is adequate. I do not think that the handling of milk is carried out with the care such an easily contaminated fluid should receive, & I look for-

forward to a time when the people who handle milk will have a proper training for their duties such as nurses now have in dealing with aseptic precautions. There is a periodic inspection of milch cows with a view to detecting any tuberculous animals.

As for Foods, I have not had to condemn any meat or fruit during the past year.

BACTERIOLOGY

In order that patients who cannot afford expense in the matter may have the benefit of bacteriological examination, the Council have an arrangement whereby the Doctors practising in the District can send material to a London Laboratory & have an immediate report sent to them at the expense of the Council.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Rainfall the Year was one of the wettest & are recorded since official records started in 1906.

No less than 42.38 inches being recorded against 40.5 inches in 1924. which we looked upon as something unusual.

1 This years (1925) rainfall is the most remarkable, in that the month of June was absolutely rainless & March only provided a fraction of an inch, this excessive rainfall was therefore spread over only ten months of the year, a rainfall above the average, January being the wettest month of the year with

a fall of $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches. The six months period April to September gave a larger number of wet days than in any previous year, 83 days of rain, except 1924 which gave 89 days. The three holiday months July, August & September, again as in the previous year 1924) provided over 10 inches against 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ in 1925) It is curious that in such a wet year there should have been several long spells of dry weather. An almost rainless March being followed by an absolutely rainless June & there were periods in the second half of the year, one in November & another in December when many days passed with very scanty precipitation. Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch fell during the first seventeen days of December; then over four inches at the close of the year, of which 4.84 inches fell in the space of twelve days. Rain fell every day from Dec. 18- 25th to Jan. 8th- 26th a period of twentyone consecutive rainy days.

Amongst heavy individual falls of rain in 24 hours may be mentioned the following

1.33	inches	on	June 1st
2.16	"	"	Aug 23rd
1.35	"	"	Oct 19th

The fall of 2.16 on Aug 23rd was the heaviest rainfall ever recorded with the exception of 2.65 inches on Dec. 9th the previous year(1924).

As regards temperature the year was normal, the mean annual temperature working out at 51.3 F. The warmest day was in June with a shade temp. of 82 F. The lowest 25. in March.

January & February were mild for the winter months, while March November & December were distinctly cold, though the last

days were very mild, the last five having a mean temp. of 50. The Sunshine registered during 1925 was rather above the normal there being registered 1886.2 hours in 312 days, June gave 311.40 hours which was next to June 1908. December proved the sunniest on record with 76.4 hours of bright sunshine.

I am glad to know that more systematic Meteorological records are to be kept & I hope published, for after making careful comparisons of Meteorological Observations taken in the Isle of Wight & those in the South-West of England I am convinced that the climatic conditions here are second to none in the Country.

I am Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant

John Cooper M.D. & C.M.

Medical Officer of Health

days were very mild, the first five having a temperature of
The machine registered during 1925 one rather above the
and there being registered 188.4 hours in 312 days, 312
11.40 hours with the rest in 1908. The machine
registered on record with 10.4 hours of engine running.
I am glad to know that more systematic meteorological records
are being kept and hope published, for after earlier records
of persons or meteorological observations as in the
of 1912 shown in the context of 1912 I am convinced
that the climatic conditions have the same in the
country.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

John G. Cooper

Medical Officer of Health

